

**I Claim:**

1. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication  
2 system; said terminus having a maximum capacity and accommodating a plurality of  
3 communication lines in coupled relationship with said terminus; each respective  
4 communication line of said plurality of communication lines having a respective line  
5 speed and a respective character-type; said respective character-type being one  
6 character-type of a plurality of character-types extant in said communication system;  
7 the method comprising the steps of:
    - (a) identifying said plurality of communication lines;
    - (b) identifying said respective line speed and said respective character-type for each  
said respective communication line;
    - (c) determining type line speed contribution by respective said communication lines  
having a particular said respective character-type;
    - (d) summing said type line speed contribution by all said respective character-types to  
determine a total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication  
lines; and
    - (e) comparing said total line speed contribution with said maximum capacity to effect  
said evaluating.
  2. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication system  
as recited in Claim 1 wherein the method further includes an interim step following  
step (d) and preceding step (e); said interim step comprising:
    - (d) (1) adjusting said total line speed contribution by a limiter factor to determine an  
adjusted total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication  
lines; said limiter factor establishing a limit regarding the number of said plurality  
of communication lines that operate simultaneously;
    - and wherein step (e) comprises comparing said adjusted total line speed contribution  
with said maximum capacity to effect said evaluating.

3. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said communication system is a telecommunication system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing apparatus for selectively coupling said respective communication lines with at least one telecommunication switching apparatus.
  4. A method for evaluating capacity utilization of a terminus in a communication system as recited in Claim 2 wherein said communication system is a telecommunication system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing apparatus for selectively coupling said respective communication lines with at least one telecommunication switching apparatus.
  5. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a communication system; said terminus being constructed for having a design capacity for accommodating a plurality of communication lines in coupled relation with said terminus; said design capacity being established by employing at least one interface unit; each interface unit of said at least one interface unit having a predetermined capacity; each respective communication line of said plurality of communication lines having a respective line speed and a respective character-type; said respective character-type being one character-type of a plurality of character-types extant in said communication system; the method comprising the steps of:
    - (a) identifying said plurality of communication lines;
    - (b) identifying said respective line speed and said respective character-type for each said respective communication line;
    - (c) determining type line speed contribution by respective said communication lines having a particular said respective character-type;
    - (d) summing said type line speed contribution by all said respective character-types to determine a total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication lines; and

(e) comparing said total line speed contribution with said predetermined capacity to determine how many said interface units are required to achieve said design capacity.

6. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a communication system  
as recited in Claim 5 wherein the method further includes an interim step following  
step (d) and preceding step (e); said interim step comprising:  
(d) (1) adjusting said total line speed contribution by a limiter factor to determine an  
adjusted total line speed contribution for all of said plurality of communication  
lines; said limiter factor establishing a limit regarding the number of said plurality  
of communication lines that operate simultaneously;  
and wherein step (e) comprises comparing said adjusted total line speed contribution  
with said predetermined capacity to determine how many said interface units are  
required to achieve said design capacity.

1 7. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a communication system  
2 as recited in Claim 5 wherein said communication system is a telecommunication  
3 system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing apparatus for selectively  
4 coupling said respective communication lines with at least one telecommunication  
5 switching apparatus.

1 8. A method for determining a configuration for a terminus in a telecommunication  
2 system as recited in Claim 6 wherein said communication system is a  
3 telecommunication system and wherein said terminus includes a multiplexing  
4 apparatus for selectively coupling said respective communication lines with at least  
5 one telecommunication switching apparatus.

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